

## Copley Fine Art Auctions

Seven Magnificent Decoys

*Nesting Canada Goose* (shown)

A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952)

East Harwich, MA, ca. 1910

Provenance: Harry V. Long

Courtesy Copley Fine Art Auctions

“There have been whispers of the existence of these birds for years,” says Stephen O’Brien, chairman of Copley Fine Art Auctions. O’Brien is referring to an extraordinary group of seven decoys originally commissioned by prominent New England sportsman Harry V. Long between 1910 and 1920. Made by famed decoy carver A. Elmer Crowell, the group contains some of Crowell’s finest work. Among them is a nesting Canada goose (shown), which Crowell scholar Gladys Hopkins describes as “the best of the three” known Canada geese made by the carver, and which others consider to be the finest waterfowl carving in existence. The other birds include a preening pintail drake with elaborate carved wings, of which only one other is known; swimming black



duck; merganser drake with crossed wings; and three shorebirds: a yellowlegs in a calling position and two classic plovers. The group will be sold at auction July 15–16, 2009.